

**Before The  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554**

**In the Matter of:**

	)	
Request for Review of a decision	)	
by the Schools and Libraries Division	)	Administrator Correspondence Dated
for Louisiana IT Consortium	)	August 7, 2017
Louisiana	)	
	)	
	)	
Schools and Libraries Universal Service	)	CC Docket No. 02-6
Support Mechanism	)	

**Request for Review**

In accordance with Sections 54.719 through 54.721 of the Commission's Rules, Louisiana IT Consortium (La IT) appeals a decision of the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (Administrator). This appeal comes timely submitted within 60 days of the Administrator decision.

**Requestor: Louisiana IT Consortium**

**Billed Entity Number: 16056789**

**FCC Registration Number 0012891198**

**Funding Request Number: 2688646,2684857,2684737,2686139,2684808,2686218,268276**

**Form 471 Numbers: 978206**

In correspondence dated July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Administrator denied appeals submitted by La IT. for these FRN the Administrator cited the appeal was postmarked more than 60 days after the Commitment Adjustment Letter. It noted that the Appeal was received July 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.

La IT intends to show that the USAC failed to allow proper access of the consortium members to act in a timely manner to address the findings cited in the commitment adjustment letter dated 05/15/2017.

#### **Issue I**

##### **The members of the consortium were denied proper access to file a response in a timely manner**

The Consortium formerly known as the Louisiana IT Consortium ceased to operate in 2015-2016. At the end of the 2016 funding year the consortium members were notified that the consortium would cease to operate and that the member schools would have to file individual applications for subsequent years. The member school (Schools) immediately hired a consultant to advise them of their position and options. At the time, there had been numerous selective reviews and audits. The only information available to the member schools, was that the 2013/14 application had not been funded, The 2014/15 application had been funded and the 2015/16 was under review but not funded. The schools were able to secure the funding for 2013/14 and 2015/16 but was unaware of any problems with the 2014/15 application.

A Commitment Adjustment Decision (COMAD) notice was received by one of the former member schools on 05/15/2017. The letter cited that a routine review revealed that funds were committed in violation of the Schools and Libraries Program rules. The member schools were unaware that a review had been conducted and could produce no evidence that could support that USAC had contacted them regarding the matter until receipt of the COMAD letter. While the member schools agree that the now defunct consortium lead (La IT) may have received notice. The schools were never made aware of the review nor given the opportunity to respond.

On May 15, 2017 the C.O.M.A.D. letter was received. The schools began to respond but discovered that USAC would not allow them the proper access to the Consortium File. USAC explained that only an “authorized” person could grant them access. The individuals that would have that authority were no longer employed by the defunct consortium lead. The member schools were unable to contact the former employess of the Consortium Lead, After numerous attempts by the schools, they we finally able to gain access to the profile in EPC.

The schools were instructed to file an appeal via the portal.

After numerous attempts to do so, USAC advised that since the application was for the 2014/15 funding year that they must file using the legacy system. Please reference customer service tickets 173122,171326,166332,166270,165773,159122,93621,78324,77598,1648.

La IT respectfully request a waiver so that USAC can properly review the response to the original commitment adjustment letter received in May of 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

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